Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-05

EB-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-10 /078 W

R 081100Z OCT 75 FM USMISSION USBERLIN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

CONFIDENTIAL USBERLIN 2035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: STOBBE'S WASHINGTON REMARKS

REF: USBERLIN 2028

1. I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION WASHINGTON TRIP WITH STOBBE EVENING OCTOBER 7. RE REMARKS CARRIED DPA STORY (PARA 2 REFTEL), HE SAID HIS MOTIVATION WAS THAT OF ATTEMPTING GET BONN TO REALIZE IMPORTANCE BEING MORE FORTHCOMING WITH ALLIES ON TRANSIT AND OTHER INNER-GERMAN TALKS. HE SEES GAUS FREQUENTLY, IS WELL-AWARE ALLIES ARE KEPT SCANTILY AND BELATEDLY INFORMED OF WHAT IS GOING ON, FEELS EVENTUAL RESULTS WILL BE OF LEGITIMATE AND DIRECT INTEREST TO ALLIES, AND THINKS IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER FOR BONN KEEP THEM CONTINUOUSLY AND FULLY INFORMED THAN PRESENT THEM WITH VIRTUAL FAIT ACCOMPLI WITH LITTLE TIME TO REACT TO IT. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED THIS UP IN BONN WITH SMALL SUCCESS, LARGELY BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN UNABLE CONVINCE CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT OF ITS IMPORTANCE. ACCORDING TO STOBBE, SCHMIDT THINKS ONLY THING THAT MATTERS VERY MUCH IS OVERALL ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL DEAL WITH GDR; AFTER THIS EVERYTHING WILL FALL INTO PLACE WITH NO FURTHER PROBLEMS. STOBBE OBSERVED THAT THIS IS JUST NOT THE WAY THINGS WORK WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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GDR, PARTICULARLY NOT IF BERLIN IS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED,

WHERE EVERYTHING IS POLITICAL, HIGHLY-NUANCED, AND ONE MUST BE SATISFIED WITH SMALL POSITIVE STEPS, THEN ONLY AFTER TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS. HE DISMISSED NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CRITICISM OF HIS REMARKS AS CONFUSED AND ILL-INFORMED.

2. STOBBE WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH TRIP IN GENERAL AND ATTITUDES OF THOSE HE MET IN WASHINGTON. HE SINGLED OUT ONLY TWO AREAS WHERE HE WAS LESS THAN FULLY SATISFIED WITH USG POSITION. ONE IS POSSIBLE OUTCOME GENEVA FREOUENCY CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD FORCE CHOICE BETWEEN RIAS AND SFB AS ONLY STATION TO OPERATE OUT OF WEST BERLIN. HE SAID THIS IS INTOLERABLE CHOICE AND WE SIMPLY MUST NOT LET OURSELVES BE PUT IN SUCH POSITION. OTHER IS QUESTION OF INCREASED CIVIL AIR SERVICE TO WEST BERLIN. STOBBE BELIEVES THAT SUCH SERVICE IS IMPORTANT BUT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT ALLIED-SOVIET DISCUSSION, AND WHILE UNDERSTANDING U.S. RELUCTANCE ENGAGE IN SUCH DISCUSSION SAID NEVERTHELESS HE CONTINUES HOPE WE WILL FIGURE OUT ACCEPTABLE WAY DO IT. HE DID NOT HOWEVER SOUND HOPEFUL AND DID NOT PUSH QUESTION HARD.HE WAS VERY MUCH IMPRESSED BY SENATOR HUMPHREY, PARTICULARLY BY FACT THAT AS POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HE GAVE SUCH STRONG SUPPORT TO FOREIGN POLICY OF A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID THIS WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN FRG.

3. COMMENT: RE PARA 1 ABOVE, WITHOUT QUESTIONING GENUINENESS OF STOBBE'S FEELINGS ABOUT CUTTING ALLIES IN EARLY IN GAME ON TALKS WITH GDR, I WOULD GUESS HIS MAJOR MOTIVATION IS THAT OF ENHANCING CHANCES ENLIST ALLIED SUPPORT ON BERLIN'S SIDE AGAINST BONN IN BERLIN-RELATED ISSUES. IT IS NO SECRET THAT BONN AND BERLIN DO NOT ALWAYS SEE THESE IN SAME WAY, AND THE SENATE WOULD OF COURSE LIKE SEE US ON THEIR SIDE IN ANY BERLINBONN ARGUMENT. THIS OBVIOUSLY MEANS WE MUST BE INVOLVED IN EARLY STAGES TO BE OF MAXIMUM USEFULNESS FROM BERLIN POINT OF VIEW, BEFORE MATTER SET IN CONCREATE AS FAR AS BONN CONCERNED.GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS, SPEECHES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975 USBERI 02035

Document Number: 1975USBERL02035 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D750349-0510

From: USBERLIN Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751072/aaaacmlm.tel Line Count: 99

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 USBERLIN 2028 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ElyME

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 03 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by ElyME>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: STOBBE'S WASHINGTON REMARKS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, GE, (STOBBE, DIETRICH)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006